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YANKS SHATTER AXIS MIDDLE

Rome And Berlin Again Blasted

Problems Pondered By Legion

Soldiers' Bonus Is Urged By McFarland

DELEGATES to the 25th annual convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, which opened in Hotel Westward Ho yesterday and continues through today, devoted most of their attention to postwar problems as each relate to their organization.

Speaker was Ernest W. McFarland, Arizona senator, outlining a program of bonuses and other special assistance to veterans of World War II. Likewise Governor John R. Murdock, Arizona representative, and others offered new ideas on behalf of newest group of veterans should be treated when they come home again.

Tucson Next Site

Also they heard, from Capt. W. F. Hathaway, a veteran of the first war and now on active duty at the Florence Internment Camp, a reminder that they may soon face the question as to whether the members of the "old guard" will welcome the veterans of World War II as members are recruited.

Tucson was picked as the 1944 convention city without opposition, the meeting to be held sometime between August 18 and 28.

Senator McFarland's talk was given in the morning session, after the opening formalities had been completed by Stephen Tormey, department commander.

"I'm engineer enough to legislate to assist our boys on their return," Senator McFarland told the

McFarland Favors Bonus

"Legislation should be enacted providing for an adjusted presentation similar to that adopted after the last war, providing for payment for the bases to at least double the amount, which was $1 for each day of service on this side and $1.25 for each day of foreign service with a $500 limitation for veterans without foreign service and a $625 limitation for veterans with foreign service.

"Provide a compensation for payment to the month to any veteran wishing to return to high school, college or to attend an occupational school, also certain conditions under which this payment might be made available for a lump payment on a home. This could be extended to payment on a farm or business.

Special Legislative Session?

Governor Osborn asked the legislature to support two legislative measures to aid those in the armed forces now and when they return.

One of these concerns payment of unemployment insurance benefits.

There is the service already have lost their rights under the law, he explained, and the situation should be corrected at the next legislative session—possibly a special one.

Another measure, he said, is to be deductions from old-age assistance grants for the allotments sent home by parents to servicemen. He said he would urge Senator Ashurst, Arizona congressional delegate, to introduce a bill in congress to prohibit these deductions from pension payments.

Murdock Discusses Problems

Mr. Murdock, discussed some of the postwar problems he sees looming from his Washington viewpoint.

Others heard at the morning session were Hilland Brooke of the War of Price Administration; Lt. R. Tyrce of the U. S. Navy, and Maj. Gen. A. C. Kincaid, 37th Fighting Wing.

Senator Hathaway's remarks concerning the future control of the legion's activities, which he addressed session, shortly after the congress had altered their constitution and by-laws to embrace the veterans of both world wars.

"I've got two sons in this war," Senator Hathaway, long-time member of the Iowa department, reminded. "I want them in this organization." He is over 45.

Continued On Page 2, Col. 4

Value Of Midwest's Gas Coupons Pared

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13—(AP)—The Office of Price Administration tonight slashed the value of gasoline coupons in the Midwest and Southwest from four to three gallons, expressed a "hope" that the northeastern pleasure driving ban can be lifted September 1, and a "further hope" that the East coast's meager gas ration may be increased "later in the year."

The ration reduction in the Midwest and Southwest will become effective at 12:01 a. m. Monday, it was announced by Chester Bowles acting price administrator.

Arizona and other states west of the Rocky mountains are not affected.

Concerning the ban on pleasure driving in 32 northeastern states, Bowles said it may be lifted September 1 if the restrictions on such driving are observed the balance of this month.

The announcements were issued simultaneously with a statement of information "leaks" in the Midwest. Previously it had been planned to make the disclosures over the week-end. The cut in the Midwest and Southwest, Bowles said, was made "to reduce gasoline consumption" in those areas.

Emergency Ruling

Speaking of the eastern prohibition on pleasure driving he said:

"The ban on nonessential driving is an emergency regulation. We know it is a hardship on the people. Dousing Easterners' hopes for an immediate increase in their present coupon values, Bowles said, "It is our further hope that if sufficient supplies can be built up in the East, we can lift the ban on pleasure driving in the 17 Atlantic coast states and the District of Columbia may be made later in September."

Under the present system A ration books in these states are now allotted 4½ gallons' week and B and C books 5½ gallons.

OPA Petroleum Administration for War made no curtailment in gasoline in the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast states, where coupon values remain unchanged.

McNutt Seeks Broadening Of Security Plan

Five, Six Per Cent Deductions Are Recommended

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—(AP)—Paul V. McNutt, federal security administrator, called for a broadening of the social security program today in a statement recording that tomorrow would mark the eighth anniversary of the Social Security Act.

"On the basis of eight years' experience," he said, "we should now prepare for positive readjustments as well as for the permanent building up of security of all the American people."

McNutt expresses conviction that workers in order to get the greatest benefits he said would flow from an expanded program, such as proposed by the Social Security board, should be willing to pay a little more of their wages to finance the program, as compared to the present one per cent deductions from pay checks.

Changes Summarized

McNutt summarized the changes recommended by the security board as:

"Establishment of a single unified national contributory social insurance system to provide insurance protection for all wage and salary earners and their families against the hazards of unemployment, temporary and permanent disability, costs of hospital care, old age, and death of the breadwinner, and unemployment compensation included under all the provisions of this system except those relating to temporary disability and unemployment."

Reviewing operations of the present program, McNutt said:

"More than 9,000,000 workers in industry and commerce have received payments under the federal old-age and survivors insurance program. Total payments amounted to $350,000,000 from 1937 to June 30 of this year, although only small lump-sum benefits were payable prior to 1940."

Payments Decline

He said however that though unemployment insurance payments to idle workers over periods of temporary joblessness have "radically declined since the peak month of June, 1940, when more than 1,200,000 workers drew unemployment benefits totaling one-fifth of a billion, a weekly average of 100,206 workers received payments totaling nearly $6,000,000 in June of this year.

"Some 40,000,000 workers are now covered by unemployment insurance," he said. "More than $2,000,000,000 has been paid to unemployed workers through June 30, although payments did not begin in all states until 1938."

McNutt also reported that federal grants to states for public assistance from February, 1936, through last June 30 included $2,200,000,000 for old-age pensions, $600,000,000 for dependent children and $100,000,000 for the needy blind.

Twin Boys' Slaying Is Confessed

CLEVELAND, Aug. 13—(AP)—A reform school parolee fled police today to the home of Charles and James Collins, 15-year-old twins, and confessed the slaying of their urban country club, officials declared, about them "for the heck of it," Frank W. Story, detective lieutenant, reported.

Police found bodies of the twins, missing more than 24 hours, lying face down in a wooded section on Bay Village, east of Cleveland. Story said Hagerl also confessed to a Wednesday night attack on Jack Hoffman, 14-year-old son of Municipal Judge Frank E. R. Buchanan. The Buchanan boy was found dazed in a field at suburban Westlake Village.

Mother Is Prostrate

The twins' mother, Mrs. George C. Collins, 44 years old, fell prostrate at Central police station when officers told her her sons had been found dead. Their daughter and a son, The twins' father is a temporary company employee.

Story quoted Hagerl as saying he picked up the twins in his automobile yesterday as the boys were walking through the golf course.

Story said the boys were slain because they "knew me."

Acting on a tip that a sedan was touring Bay Village, Cleveland and Lakewood detectives took Hagerl into custody. A revolver was found in the car, Story said.

Soldier Killed By Train Wheels

FLAGSTAFF, Aug. 13—(AP)—A soldier identified as Pvt. Harry B. Madison was killed early today when he jumped or fell from a westbound Santa Fe train and 11 miles east of Flagstaff was crushed under the wheels of a freight train, Perry Francis, sheriff, reported.

In the soldier's pocket was a telegram informing him of his mother's death. It was learned he was stationed at Camp Cook, Calif., after attending her funeral in Oklahoma.

Eddie Johnson, news vendor on the westbound train, told Rod Madison, deputy sheriff, that Madison acted queerly when caught in a stop away from an open door on the car platform.

Pipeline's Oil Reaches East

PIERCEVILLE, Pa. Aug. 13—(AP)—Friday the 13th brought some bad news for Hitler when oil for "Big Inch," giant eastern pipeline, reached the line's eastern terminus.

The oil had been on the way from Illinois since July 19. Back of it was 4,000,000 barrels, stretching to Longview, Tex. Ahead lay two smaller pipelines, one to Philadelphia and Marcus Hook, Pa., and the other to Bayonne, N. J.

From now on, 300,000 barrels a day will flow to eastern refineries through "Big Inch."

Russians Open New Offensive

Smolensk Periled By Two-Armed Assault

(See Editorial Page Cartoon)

By EDWARD D. BALL

LONDON, Aug. 14—(Saturday)—(AP)—Russian troops smashed through a 31-mile gap in the Smolensk front yesterday to open an outer-flank offensive against Smolensk with gains up to 13 miles, while other forces fought their way to within a mile of tottering Kharkov and closed on the middle key base of Bryansk, Moscow analysts reported.

Capture of these three German strongpoints on a 500-mile front could crack the entire axis defense in Russia and probably force a German retreat in the Dnieper bend.

Two-Armed Push

The new offensive—the third major Red Army drive opened this summer—was a two-armed push from north and south of Spas Demensk, 85 miles southeast of Smolensk on an important rail line. The drive starting in the north of Soviet legions shattered the German lines on a front of 20 miles and nine miles each and reached through to capture Spas Demensk and Ilino, another town, and 13 miles from Smolensk.

More than 100 towns and villages were captured in the breakthrough, Moscow said. Spas Demensk alone more than 1,000 Germans were killed.

Other Russian troops are 60 miles from Smolensk on the north in the village Lukki area.

They reached that point last winter.

Artillery Softens Nazis

Soviet artillery massed before the strong German defenses softened Nazi resistance, said the Moscow broadcast monitored in London by the Soviet monitor. The Russian artillery was followed by the infantry for the bayonet charging, hand-to-hand fighting and 42 German planes, Moscow said, were shot down in the sky by the advancing infantrymen.

In the south, Kharkov was a doomed city as plunging Russian columns swept out from Bryansk and Belgorod and the first subpoy rout of the great Ukraine industrial center on the Kharkov river. Taking a destructive charge from the southeast to capture Lozovo, six miles from the city, and nearby Sinelnikovo, a key town from Kharkov on the railway.

German Losses Soar

"The enemy is offering desperate resistance in an attempt to stop the advance of our troops," the communique said. "However, all German efforts are failing and are only increasing the already huge losses that the German army is suffering in the battle around Kharkov."

In one sector of this southern front, 4,000 Germans were killed in five days and 300 tanks and trucks as booty 12 tanks, 67 guns, 30 machine guns and 1,000 other weapons, Moscow said. Scores of telephone and eight dumps of supplies, the bulletin said. Many prisoners also were taken.

In addition to their advance from the northeast and southeast Russian forces on the southwest, strangling Kharkov, were eight miles from the city on the south, on the east and less than 30 on the west.

Kharkov Fighting Heavy

In yesterday's fighting, the Soviets advanced up to seven miles in the Kharkov area and captured 1,000 towns, the Soviet bulletin said. Some of the heaviest fighting centered around Karachev, 28 miles from Bryansk. In the past week, a Russian military spokesman said in a broadcast, over 1,000 towns and villages have been captured on the approaches to Bryansk which is the junction between Kharkov and Smolensk.

More than 60 towns and villages were reported wrested from the Germans near Bryansk and the Soviet troops moved up to take one village only four miles east of Bryansk.

One German stronghold after another caved in under the blows of Soviet infantry, tanks, artillery and planes and in one sector 2,000 Germans were killed. Prisoners, tanks, guns and trucks loaded with supplies fell to the victorious Russians, Moscow said.

Smuts Creates New Ministries

Farmer's Audience Proves Appropriate

SPIRO, Okla., Aug. 13—(AP)—Farmer Jan Smuts was greeted with floods and he told his wife he was going to Claude B. Wickard's agriculture department to talk something about it. But his wife said he kept postponing it.

The other day a stranger asked Warren about conditions on his farm and Warren gave him an earful, including what happened to that good bottomland in the spring floods.

The stranger listened, then introduced himself—Wickard on a tour of flood areas.

Invasion Of France Held Near

By J. EDWARD MURRAY

LONDON, Aug. 13—(UP)—French underground leaders were reported today to be confidently expecting an invasion of France and coincidentally there was widespread speculation in Britain that the zero hour for the great assault on Western Europe is approaching.

A London spokesman of Liberation, organ of the French underground, said the underground leaders expect to study the detailed underground reports which have arrived during the past 10 weeks.

A careful assessment indicates that the Allied time-table is drawn at the impending Quebec conference by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill most, and the underground leaders expect that it will call for an early landing in France.

Otherwise there will be a "weakening beyond repair" of underground man power in France and an irrevocable shift in sentiment among the majority of French patriots toward Russia.

The speculation in Britain that another giant Mediterranean operation is being prepared was stirred by the exceptional troop movements under way in this country and by the continued pounding of the Germans in Northern France.

French morale, the reports revealed is sinking. There was deepest gloom when the Allies landed in Italy instead of France after the Tunisian victory. Further delay may destroy morale completely.

In this connection, the reports said that more and more Frenchmen are turning to communism in the belief that Russia is their sole hope of victory.

French morale, the reports revealed is sinking. There was deepest gloom when the Allies landed in Italy instead of France after the Tunisian victory. Further delay may destroy morale completely.

Big Jap Base Laid In Ruins By Allied Raid

Salamaua Hit Hard By 177 Tons Of Bombs

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Aug. 14.—(Saturday)—(AP)—Japan's menaced air base at Salamaua, New Guinea, was blasted by 177 tons of bombs in a raid which the Allies said yesterday virtually ceased to exist as the result of a 177-ton bombardment by heavy and medium Allied planes, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

The Allies struck air blow was the largest in a series which have dealt more than 1,000 tons of explosive and incendiary bombs on that Northeastern New Guinea base of air assault.

New Bairoko Advance

Announcement of the destructive aerial threat was coupled with announcement of the capture of Bairoko harbor, at the other end of the 750-mile battle arc in the Pacific against the Japanese footstool of the Japanese New Georgia island at Bairoko harbor.

This advance occurred near Ziela Ziela, a village on the Bairoko harbor. Allied night attacks on the other half way between the harbor's entrance and enemy garrison and the Munda air base which the American forces captured last week.

Resuming a Solomons aerial offensive which had been temporarily halted by weather, fighter-escorted heavy bombers destroyed or severely damaged 37 of 42 Japanese bombers and fighters caught on the enemy's big airfield at Kahili on Bougainville island. In addition, the American airmen shot down 30 interceptor enemy fighters and shot down one Japanese bomber. Three were lost and one of the pilots was rescued.

Exceeds Previous Raids

The fiery aerial blasting of Salamaua, which is menaced ground by American and Australian troops from Bulolo and Wau to the south in the vicinity of Bondulu, exceeded in weight of bombs the blows in point of violence.

The 177 tons of bombs fell in a 30-minute period.

Among the targets was the Salamaua airstrip, whose possession could put the Allies within easy fighter-plane range of New Britain and the size of numerous Japanese bases.

Free Italy Leaders Arrive In London

LONDON, Aug. 14. (Saturday)—(AP)—The Daily Herald said today that Aetanog Salvemini of Harvard University and Count Carlo Sforza of New York City, two leaders of the Free Italian movement in America, had arrived in London with a few other Italian exiles.

Allies Seize Italian General On Donkey

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, North Africa, Aug. 13—(UP) **General Fiumara, second in command of the Italian Naples garrison, was captured in Sicily while trying to escape on a donkey, it was announced today.**

Other Key Cities In Italy Hit

Avenging Forces Play Havoc With Axis

LONDON, Aug. 14 (Saturday) (AP) — **Reuters reported from Zurich early today that the air war is warring had swelled in Western Switzerland, indicating possibly another heavy RAF attack on Northern Italy.**

AXIS FORCES IN ITALIAN FRONTIER, Aug. 13—(AP) Thousands of Italians crowded around Turin as the police cordoned off a "no man's land" when the pontiff visited the bombed areas of Rome after the second American air attack, it was learned here tonight.

By WALTER LOGAN

LONDON, Aug. 13—(UP) United States heavy and medium bombing planes raided the two great railroad centers of Rome today and British and Canadian planes struck Berlin, Milan and Turin in a portentous demonstration to the axis of the power and range of the Allied air forces.

Flying Fortresses and Mitchell and Marauder medium bombers from North Africa attacked the San Lorenzo and Littorio railroad yards at Rome in an all-American daylight precision raid shortly before noon.

Record Raid Made

British Wellington bombers, racing from their Mediterranean bombing bases in the early hours of the morning while British and Canadian heavy bombers based on Britain flew over the Alps to make the greatest raid of the war on Italy.

More than 1,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Milan alone.

Berlin reported that the Milan railroad station and the Breda aircraft factories were smashed and rail-road communication was stopped for many hours. U. S. government listeners heard Milan broadcast emergency bus schedules for persons fleeing the city. Columbia broadcasting system listeners in the British radio as hearing Rome admit that the main Milan railroad station was destroyed and that trains were leaving from a suburban station, even more away.

Radio Swiss, heard here, reported that antiwar demonstrations took place in Milan after the raid and that troops were patrolling the streets.

Bombing Is Climactic

It was the second raid on Rome The first, also all-American, was made July 19. As on the first raid, fighters were escorted, trained and were warned to fire on damaged planes. Special telescopic cameras recorded results to relate any axis claims that the capital had been shrined, been damaged.

The raid on Rome climaxed a 36-hour period in which Allied planes attacked Italy's industrial centers from the Middle East and bombed targets in six countries from the Atlantic to the Baltic on the North and the Eastern Mediterranean on the south.

While the British and Canadian bombers were pounding Milan and Turin, Allied night and day fighter-bomber planes were attacking airdromes and islands in France, Belgium and Holland and heavy planes were sowing mines.

Greek Areas Blasted

Middle-eastern command planes bombed Preveza, Greece and Pharos island in the Aegean sea.

The raid on Berlin was the 68th of the war officially, and it was calculated to speed up the panicky evacuation of the city, fearfully awaiting the day when that war headquarters (where so much ruin has been planned on so many countries) will itself be leveled. Actually, the Berlin raid was a comparatively small raid—as British, intended to frazzle civilian nerves. The last announced raid was on May 21.

It was the 16th attack on Milan the 30th on Turin. Both cities were raided August 7.

The air ministry announced that 13 bomber planes were lost in the raids on Milan and Turin. But within a few hours news came that six of them had landed safely in Mediterranean bases and among those missing.

Milan Hit Hardest

An air ministry communique announced also that the raids on Milan and Turin was the greatest of the war. Milan's industrial plants, factories, the Alfa Romeo motor car and airplane engine works, the Isotta Fraschini motor works and the Marelli magneto works.

Targets at Turin included the gigantic Fiat airplane engine factories, the Royal arsenal and chemical factories.

An important part of both Northern Italy raids was the attacks on railroad stations and tracks.

Eighth Army Perils Nazi Retreat Road

By DANIEL DE LUCE

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, North Africa, Aug. 13—(AP)—Hard-driving Allied troops today stormed and captured Randazzo, pivotal axis stronghold in the heart of the Northeast Sicily front, after U. S. soldiers had smashed through a desperate German rear guard in violent hand-to-hand fighting.

The middle of the fast-diminishing axis defense lines on the Messina bridgehead suffered total collapse as the American Seventh Army lunged into the highland town from the west and north, followed by British troops smashing up from the south.

Nazis Face Capture

Although most of the German defenders tried to struggle eastward to the coast in the vicinity of Taormina, ace German paratroopers, in big numbers, were reported to be facing capture in the area. At the same time, British troops reached the Taormina area as they thundered up from the south along the coast on the other side of Mount Etna.

All along a 20-mile road from Randazzo to Taormina, the Germans were fighting desperately with Allied troops at their heels.

The Americans had reached the ruined city's edge by nightfall yesterday and rushed into the shelled and bomb-torn town at 9:35 a. m. today.

The conquest of Randazzo was a prelude to the capture of Tortia in the African campaign because it smashed open the few remaining communication lines available to the axis forces, and threw the Germans back toward their final narrow peninsular foothold in Sicily opposite the toe of the Italian boot.

Flanks Pressed Hard

At the same time, U. S. and British troops were pushing hard upon the German flanks within 30 miles of Messina in some central points.

The conquest of Randazzo, about 37 air-line miles southwest of Messina, sped the German evacuation of Sicily and hastened the end of the five-week-old campaign, for the Allies now had squeezed the length of the front to less than 30 miles.

The bulk of the German armies in Italy across the Messina strait. Axis prisoners in squads, platoons and companies captured in, boosting to more than 130,000 the total captured in the campaign—not counting those taken after the fall of Pantelleria.

Doomed By Daring Move

A bold out-flanking by a dough-boy force which swung over the roadless mountains north of Randazzo yesterday virtually doomed that Axis stronghold, and at the same time one of the world's great concentration camps, Mussolini's island of Ustica, surrendered to the Allies, taking waste to every possible defense the Germans might use.

American skill and leadership never were exemplified better than in the Randazzo operation, which sent the Nazis reeling back from their strategically perfect entrenchments and machine-gun nests commanding every mountainous approach to the beleaguered city.

Pursuit Is Pushed

Time Still Unlocked

It still could not be announced when the American chief executive and Churchill would start their conference, it was learned.

The strategic parleys have been taken place in the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean, Europe when Marshall frequently has urged.

Time Change Is Set In Great Britain

LONDON, Aug. 14—(Saturday)—(AP)—British double summer time ends Sunday, and effective at 12:30 a. m. Sunday, all clocks will be turned back one hour.

Britain's time will be five hours ahead of eastern war time, instead of six.

Since April, British timepieces have been two hours in advance of Greenwich mean time. After today they will be only one hour ahead.

Falcon Field Crash Kills British Cadet

MESA, Aug. 13—(AP)—A Royal Air Force cadet in training at Falcon Field was killed today when plane crashed as he attempted to take off from the field.

Lt. Col. Lawrence J. F. McKenna, field commandant, said the victim was 23 years old. His name was withheld for 48 hours, pending notification of his parents in England.

U. S. Chiefs Of War Staff Reach Quebec

Time Of Roosevelt, Churchill Meet Kept Secret

QUEBEC, Que., Aug. 13—(AP)—American chiefs of staff are here tonight, and their presence signaled that momentous war conferences between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill of Britain would begin soon.

Their presence was the spark in the furnished war talks which had been lagging perceptibly since Churchill left here Wednesday night and turned up the next morning in the United States.

The American chiefs of staff include Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the army; Adm. William D. Leahy, president Roosevelt's personal chief of staff, and Royal of the navy, deputy secretary.

Marshall, King, Arnold and Leahy are the American representatives on the combined British-American chiefs of staff, the top military organization of the two great Allied countries.

The surveys of the war situation around the world between the Americans and their "opposite numbers" of the British armed services have been a prelude to conferences at President and prime minister may bring into existence the final decisions on tactics and strategy needed to crack open Hitler's Europe stronghold and to bring the war closer to the islands of Japan.

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General Reveals Invasion Route

LONDON, Aug. 13—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, commander of U. S. forces in the European theater of operations, revealed today that the day will come when the Allies will "cross these narrow waters and strike the enemy with all the force at our command."

(The "narrow waters" of the Mediterranean separate Italy from the Nazi Reich.)

"That invasion will continue unless Nazi Germany is a dead page in history and Nazi armies have surrendered unconditionally", the general declared.

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